

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-09 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-14

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

/176 R

DRAFTED BY AGRI: FAS: RMPLANK: JMN

3/13/73 EXT 447-7677

APPROVED BY EB/ OT/ TA: JWHOLMES

AGRIC: FAS - GWHITE

AGRIC: FAS: F AND V - GSINDELAR

STR - BSTEINBOCK

TREAS - PSUCHMAN

EB/ OT/ TA - JPCRAWFORD

EUR/ RPE - PRIZIK

----- 044457

R 132200 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

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TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES.

BONN PASS SECRETARY SHULTZ AND PARTY.

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 1137; B) EC BRUSSELS 1325.

1. USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER A NOTE
IMMEDIATELY TO THE EC COMMISSION AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH
LEVEL ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

2. THE USG HAS LEARNED FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS THAT THE EC
COMMISSION HAS SENT TO THE COUNCIL A COMMUNICATION ASKING
THAT THE COUNCIL AGAIN CONSIDER THE 1969 COMMISSION
PROPOSAL FOR A MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE SYSTEM ON PROCESSED
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LIST OF
QUOTE SENSITIVE UNQUOTE PRODUCTS FOR WHICH THE COMMISSION
RECOMMENDS MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES INCLUDES: CITRUS JUICES,
CANNED TOMATO PRODUCTS, CANNED PINEAPPLES, CANNED FREESTONE
PEACHES, DRIED PRUNES, CANNED ASPARAGUS, CANNED PEAS,
CANNED BEANS, CANNED CARROTS, AND CANNED VEGETABLE MIXTURES.
ALL OF THESE ITEMS ARE BOUND BY THE EC UNDER THE GATT. THE
BINDINGS ON CITRUS JUICES, CANNED TOMATO PRODUCTS, DRIED
PRUNES, AND CANNED ASPARAGUS WERE MADE TO THE US DURING THE

DILLON ROUND NEGOTIATIONS. IN ADDITION, NEW MEMBER STATES
HAVE BOUND MOST OF THESE ITEMS. THE US HAS NEGOTIATING
INTERESTS ON THESE UNDER GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6. IN
PARTICULAR, THE U. K. HAS BINDINGS ON ALL THE ITEMS FOR
WHICH MIP'S ARE PROPOSED INCLUDING CITRUS JUICES, CANNED
ASPARAGUS, CANNED PEAS, CANNED BEANS, CANNED CARROTS AND
CANNED VEGETABLE MIXTURES WHERE BINDINGS WERE MADE TO THE
U. S. THE ITEMS FOR WHICH MIP'S ARE BEING PROPOSED
ARE OF TRADE INTEREST TO THE US: US EXPORTS TO THE EC OF
NINE IN FY 1972 TOTALED AROUND 23 MILLION DOLLARS. THE
MEASURES BEING CONSIDERED BY THE EC WOULD IN US VIEW
IMPAIR THE VALUE OF THE GATT BINDINGS AND AFFECT ADVERSELY
IMPORTS OF PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM THE US.

3. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT WHEN THE COMMISSION EARLIER
PROPOSED (MARCH 1968 AND JUNE 1969) MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES
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ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, THE USG MADE STRONG

REPRESENTATIONS DURING 1968 AND 1969 URGING THE COMMISSION AND EC MEMBER STATES AGAINST PASSAGE OF THIS PROPOSAL. ARTICLE XXII (22) CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD IN OCTOBER 1969 BETWEEN THE US AND EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS. IN THE EXCHANGES OF 1968 AND 1969 THE USG STATED THAT IT CONSIDERED A SYSTEM THAT RESULTS IN PROHIBITION OF IMPORTS AT PRICES BELOW A SPECIFIED MINIMUM TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH GATT ARTICLE XI (11) WHICH PROHIBITS THE IMPOSITION OF ANY RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OTHER THAN DUTIES, TAXES, OR OTHER CHARGES. THE US FURTHER DECLARED THAT IN THE FACE OF ANY IMPAIRMENT OF ITS RIGHTS UNDER GATT, IT WOULD TAKE PROMPT AND APPROPRIATE ACTION.

4. THE USG FINDS THE PROPOSED MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE SYSTEM NO MORE ACCEPTABLE AT THIS TIME AND URGES THAT THE EC NOT ADOPT SUCH A SYSTEM IN LIGHT OF US TRADE INTERESTS AND EC RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE GATT AND IN VIEW OF IMPENDING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC UNDER GATT: ARTICLE XXIV:6 AND THE UPCOMING MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. END TEXT.

5. US EMBASSIES IN EC MEMBER STATES ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS OF US NOTE AND TO MAKE WRITTEN REPRESENTATION DRAWING FREELY FROM NOTE'S TEXT TO CALL ATTENTION TO US VIEWS THIS MATTER AND TO URGE AGAINST ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSAL. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE046171
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FAS: RMPLANK: JMN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730332/aaaahzec.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AG
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971212
Subject: MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.
TAGS: ETRD, BE, GATT
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
EC BRUSSELS
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG

PARIS
ROME
THE HAGUE
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005